

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A body reinforcement device for a vehicle comprising:

a rigid reinforcement member connecting two portions of a vehicle body to each other; and

a damping force member connecting the two portions of the vehicle body such that both the rigid reinforcement member and the damping force member generally span the space between the two portions of the vehicle body; wherein

the rigid reinforcement member and the damping force member are disposed side by side in a parallel orientation to each other;

the rigid reinforcement member includes a first end and a second end;

the damping force member includes a first end and a second end; and

the rigid reinforcement member first end and the damping force member first end collectively are fixed to one of the two portions of the vehicle body by one mounting bracket.

Claim 2 (original): The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the damping force member comprises a hydraulic damper.

Claim 3 (original): The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the damping force member comprises a rubber viscoelastic member.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): The body reinforcement device for a vehicle as claimed in 1, wherein the rigid reinforcement member comprises a first member and a second member, the first and second members being disposed side by side to the damping force member.